TABLE 1
Location of confirmed, probable, or possible breeding records of Song Thrushes in northeast Portugal

Place	Year	10 × 10 UTM squares	Habitat	Breeding status
Montesinho Hills (Montesinho)	1992	PG 84	Oak woodland	Possible
Montesinho Hills (Vilarinho)	1994	PG 74	Riparian vegetation	Possible
Rabal	1992	PG 83	Riparian vegetation	Confirmed
Soeira	1993	PG 73	Riparian vegetation	Probable
Vinhais	1993	PG 63	Riparian vegetation	Probable
Cobelas	1994	PG 53	Riparian vegetation	Possible
Moimenta	1995	PG 64	Agro-forestry	Possible
Gestosa	1994	PG 63	Agro-forestry	Possible
Nogueira Hills	1995	PG 82	Riparian vegetation	Probable
Nogueira Hills	1996	PG 81	Riparian vegetation	Confirmed

detectedin nine 10 × 10 km UTM squares. These data represent the first breeding evidence of this species in the northeast of the country, indicating the existence of a second and larger nucleus in northern Portugal.

It occurs mostly in riparian vegetation consisting of Common Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Narrow-leaved Ash *Fraxinus angustifolia* and poplars, or White Poplar *Populus alba* and Black Poplar *P. nigra* associated with moors and highland pastures. It also occurs in oak woods and mixed deciduous woods formed mainly by Pyrenean Oak *Quercus pyrenaica* and Birch *Betula* sp. (see Table 1).

The apparent absence of this species in northern Portugal in the past was mainly due to an insufficient coverage of the more remote areas and did not necessarily reflect its real distribution. Nevertheless, it is believed that in recent years this species' breeding distribution has expanded southwards to certain areas in the north of Portugal, resulting in the distribution presented here for the northeast (Fig. 1). To support this idea some local hunters report that this thrush has only bred in Nogueira Hills for the last five years. It should be noted that the distribution presented may still be somewhat incomplete due to difficulties in detecting Song Thrushes breeding at low densities.

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Av. Dr. Mário Moutinho L-1733, 10E,
1400 Lisbon,
Portugal.
LUÍS MIGUEL REINO

Quinta da Olaia,
2490 Ourém,
Portugal.
DOMINGOS PATACHO

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FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST OF THE SLENDER-BILLED FINCH

The Slender-billed Finch *Xenospingus concolor* is a poorly known bird that inhabits some coastal valleys from central Peru to northern Chile (Koepcke 1970, Ridgely & Tudor 1989). It is shy and inconspicuous, occurring in natural riparian shrubbery, and its nest has not been described (Collar *et al.* 1992). Here I present observations on two nests in southwestern Peru.

On 18 December 1995, I found an individual building a nest in the riparian thickets of La Real (16°07′S, 72°29′W), in the Majes valley at an elevation of 550 m. Slender-billed Finches occur in the riparian thickets (mainly of *Tessaria integrifolia* and *Baccharis* sp.) all along this valley (González & Málaga 1997). The site of the nest was about 50 m from the river, and on the other side about the same distance from extensive rice plantations. A pair of birds was present in the vicinity of the site but only one bird, presumably the female, was nest-building. During three hours of observations, it twice brought twigs to the nest, and twice went to the nest without material, apparently to shape the interior. The nest was placed among ramificating dead branches of *Tessaria* with a tangle of many dead stems and leaves of *Baccharis*. It was about 80% complete, 2 m above ground and well hidden; globular in shape, about 11 cm in diameter, and entirely woven of fine twigs.

The second nest was found on 2 June 1996, in riparian shrubbery between Ocucaje and Callango (14°27′S, 75°38′W), in the Ica valley at an elevation of 300 m. It was first located by students taking part in a field course on regional wildlife, and shown to me. The riparian shrubbery of Ocucaje is drier than that of the Majes valley, and interspersed with *Baccharis* (fruiting at that time), "Huarango" trees (*Acacia macracantha*; with fruit in pods) and introduced shrubs of *Tamarix*. The nest was empty and apparently recently built, as a pair of Slender-billed Finches were calling persistently around it, uttering high-pitched cheeping calls which at first led us to suppose that there were nestlings in the nest. This nest was woven with dry leaves of "caña brava" (*Gynerium sagittatum*, a large grass) and was oval-shaped, with the entrance high up on one side; height 12–13 cm, depth 8 cm, width of nest walls 2.2 cm, entrance diameter 4 cm. It was 1.5 m above ground, in a tangle of